

**FILED**

AUG 12 2019

Montana Water Court

IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA  
LOWER MISSOURI DIVISION  
SHIELDS RIVER BASIN (43A)

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**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE  
OBJECTIONS**

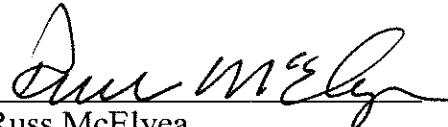
The objection period in Basin 43A closes on August 13, 2019. On July 29, 2019, Leslie C. Arthun of Arthun Ranch Inc. filed a Request for Extension. The letter attached to the extension request cites a difficult calving season, a late haying season, and inability to hire an attorney or water specialist due to low commodity prices as reasons necessitating an extension. Arthun Ranch requests an additional 60 days to file objections in Basin 43A. On August 9, 2019, John S. Michael, III also filed a request for a 60-day extension. On August 12, 2019, Scott M. Knutson and Timothy R. Sundling both filed requests for extension as well.

This Court may extend the objection period in a Basin for two additional ninety-day periods, provided good cause is shown and the request for extension is received before the end of the current objection period. Section 85-2-233(2), MCA. The Arthun request for extension satisfies both of the above-mentioned criteria. It is not necessary to determine whether the other parties have shown good cause because Arthun's request satisfies the criteria from Section 85-2-233(2), MCA. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the requests are GRANTED, and the objection period is EXTENDED by 60 days, until and including **Tuesday, October 15, 2019 to file, not mail**, objections to the Preliminary Decree in Basin 43A. This extension applies to ALL WATER CLAIMANTS in this Basin, whether they asked for an extension or not. The

Court will publish at least one notice of the extension in the *Billings Gazette* in Billings, Montana, the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* in Bozeman, Montana, and *The Livingston Enterprise* in Livingston, Montana.

DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of *August*, 2019.

  
Russ McElyea  
Chief Water Judge

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